

DRAFT MINUTES – CNIWC FOREST OPERATIONS HEALTH AND SAFETY FORUM

Tuesday 25 February 2025, 8.30 – 11:30; Room WPW105&106 Waipa Campus TITC & MS Teams

0. Welcome – Glen Coleman

Christine Ewart – introduction, Gurman – regional H&S Officer – technical and operation and for Andy and Claude.

1. Apologies

Mike Collins, Mark Preece, Andy Warren, Claude Hendrikse, John Lowe, Hayden Pearson, Rona Wheeldon, Toni Punton, Chayne Zinsli

Attendance: Waipa

Glen Coleman (Chair), Gordon Acres (Minutes), Vaughn Warner, Damita Mita, Christine Ewart, Shane Perrett, Min Tobenhouse, Richard Stringfellow, Ange Hay, Gurman Singh

Attendance: MS Teams

Leesa Haimona, Rowan Struthers, Mandie Skippis, Joe Akari, Veronica McDonald

New attendees Introductions:

Ange Hay – Terrain, Gurman Singh - Rayonier

2. Adoption of previous minutes of 19 November 2024

Moved: Vaughn

Seconder: Leesa

3. Matters arising from minutes:

- Action 1: Glen - Work instruction guidance from Manulife – Safe work around water sent o all
- Action 2: Veronica - Photos and run sheet was sent to all

4. Working Group Updates:

- ACOP Working

5. Health & Safety Standard Updates

FICA update (Rowan Struthers)

- FICA workshop – vocational training – pan sector group – FOA/FICA etc major changes. Immigration changes – some constraints around migrant labour especially for silviculture. Working with MBIE and INZ – Working with Gisborne after Cyclone Gabrielle – educating councillors – third contractors meeting. Board meeting and refresh strategy (7 strategies and strategic objectives – slight change in focus) – to be published on website. Glen – ACOP as close to old one? Main issues are that the document is targeted at PCBUs – however until recently was previously focused on all. Language has changed – old has mandatory statements – new one uses words like “shall” e.g. clearfell – carry 4 wedges – new ACOP requires doing a risk assessment then deciding what controls are required. Now left to interpretation. Move from old format is also challenging – format may now follow more like the old format. FICA is meeting with WorkSafe to review this. Shane – not a good outcome. Vaughn – should be worker focused.

Joe – thankful that feedback from earlier workshops brought about a rethink about the ACOP. Workers must be able to see themselves – BPGs are good to support this.

Update on WorkSafe activity, concerns, trends, statistics, (Mark Preece)

- WorkSafe inspectors are now using a new assessment tool that focuses more on the key areas of harm that have been highlighted in the sector plan. They are also using a new keyword tool that allows us to better report on some of the things they are seeing in the field. I can show some of the dashboard reports at the next meeting. **Action 1**
- WorkSafe data and insights team are currently updating the [WorkSafe Data Centre](#). This should all be finished by the end of this month. This can be accessed online, check it out for latest updates on forestry data.
- ACOP review update (Joe can give more detail) we are working through some issues with FISC, FICA and FOA to ensure the end product is going to be useful to industry, as close to the current version as possible. The technical content is also being worked through based on feedback received. This will go through another round of workshops with industry experts mid - late March. Once a near-final draft is available, this will be shared more widely. A new timeline for completion and some key messages about the process, and supporting educational material should be coming out later this week. **Action 2:**

FISC/Safetree (Joe Akari)

- Internal review – final report by end December summary to be published. More detailed planning to aid funding proposals.
- Shared presentation of forestry data review December 2024. **See attached**
- TAG – outcome FISC wants to rejuvenate the “**Look up and Live**” campaign – stickers, toolbox talk, etc. Include covering the 5-step plan.
- Christine – key to follow up by all to communicate
- Story from Glen – how often do we make incorrect decisions?
- Christine – Machine-assisted felling – Muka Tangata working on changes to training – draft gone out for feedback Action 3: Christine to send draft for comment.

Training & Education H&S (Christine /Gordon Acres)

- All learners that Hamish worked with are being allocated to Competenz staff – if there are challenges please contact Christine. There has been a decline in trainee numbers. Impacted by free TTAF. Interesting to note that fatalities decreased during the peak training years. Changes are happening with new government currently – feedback closed last week for options communicated via media. Expected Mid to late April, an outcome for work-based learning. Changes happening in Wood Manufacturing / Toi Ohomai too. Not noticed an increase in workplace assessors. This is more noticeable in Silviculture. Internal training and external assessment provides a good model. Special focus must remain on critical risks. Min – challenge is employees wanting to complete their training. Employees want to pass on their skills and knowledge. Shane – the best place to do training is in the crew, e.g. Generation programme. Christine – what do employers need to be capable of training, what support is needed?
- Gordon – One forest operations tutor, teach-out of Diploma in Forest Management. FOA discussion of different models for continued L6 programme.

Wood Council (Damita Mita)

- Generation programme – considering how this will continue. Impacts on simulators in containers. Contact Damita if you are interested. Awards evening being managed by CNIWC, sponsorship collateral being sent out soon. Environmental working groups are up and running, ENVBOP, ENV Waikato and Manawatu. Joint wood council meetings each month and as chair twice a year. Regular quarterly meeting with Ministers McClay and Jones.
- Lower NI Safety H&S Group - Melina Vlahos – resigned 14/2 contact will be maintained with Erica Kinder

6. Presentations/discussion:

- Richard Stringfellow - 'Be A Mate' a forestry based Mental Health & Wellbeing program that he has been delivering to Timberlands and Manulife staff, contractors and workers. Wellbeing and suicide training 3 options/levels to date throughout the regions: central, northland, Whakatane around 200 workers. Age range 16 to 71, contractors, employees, management, logyards, KPP soon. Doing evaluation forms – wide range of ethnicities. Feedback on learnings taken – looking at wellbeing spectrum discussion in and outside the spectrum. Thriving through to crisis mode. – “green vs red brain” – some indicated just “surviving” Looking at own support systems like EAP, etc. Understanding where they are and where to go for support and how to support others. Cover how to identify if you are becoming stressed, and if others are becoming stressed, and looking at suitable resources. Use Te Whare Tapa Wha Model. They are starting to use tools discussed – after-session discussions are regular and contact is also made individually by phone. Some stats are challenging to participants. Ensuring that there is support after the session. “Safety Aiders” – especially after suicide focus. Proactively addressing triggers. Focusing on the initial Awareness session and then smaller numbers for the next two levels. Some screening of the next tier participants is done. Share stories. Not too intrusive with the first level. Evaluations by participants show mostly agree with training or N/A. Funding is required for the greater rollout of the programme. Christine – Competenz have staff around NZ – how can we promote this training? Some employees want next-tier training to use for Whanau with relationship issues. Glen – is there some understanding where the issues are? Richard - mainly relationship issues. At the end of training, there is individual recognition and QR codes for more information for support, and a pocket card. Funded generally by FISC initially and recently by Manulife and Timberlands. This is a tangible response to the real world need. Modeled on the “Be a mate” in Hawkes Bay. Discussion around the isolation of machine operators and the way their work is organised and production rates expected. Leesa – training is working well and is effective. Next level to train is “co- worker”
- Landmark health and safety conviction of former CEO Summary Russell McVeagh Discussion by Glen of strategy for management to ensure alignment for CEO – due diligence is key, then actions, then closeout.

7. General Business. – incidents, activities, initiatives, trends, innovations, etc.

- Vaughn – had increase in Vehicle damage and incidents on public roads. Use “safe stop reset after task done”. Log security – truck check list and good reporting from crews, chain of responsibilities. Id risks, etc. As work changes are they changing with it.

- Glen – EOY H&S Issues – nil injury but some high potential! Manual tree faller – 10 trees to take down – heavy hindrance -no mechanised available – spar came down – hit back and head. Taking a really hard look at how this happened. Reviewing the manual falling operation. Some retiring of forestry areas involved.
- Leesa – Automated number plate recognition – working well. Security for contractors working well – recreation induction. 24-hour security hub is working. Good communication with NZ Police. Vaughn to present at next meeting **Action 4:**
- Mandie – property damage is becoming an issue – and responsible persons carrying some of the costs associated.
- Vaughn – supports the use of dash cams for incident investigation. Stand-alone not monitored – used for personal protection. Storage on SD card and an App for phone.

8. Next meetings, proposed dates for 2025:

- Chair – Glen Coleman; Minute taking – Gordon Acres
- Meeting dates/times for 2025
 - **Tuesday 27 May 2025 8.30 – 11:30 am;**
 - **Tuesday 26 August 2025 8.30 – 11:30 am;**
 - **Tuesday 18 November 2025 8.30 – 11:30 am;**
 - **Venue TBA and via MS Teams.**

Note that 2025 meeting appointments were sent as placeholders for 2025.
Final dates will be confirmed before each meeting.

9. The meeting concluded at 11:11 am

Appendices as part of the minutes:

- 1. WorkSafe – WKS-17 Forestry Psychosocial Risks Infographic
- 2. Manulife Work instruction – Safe work around water
- 3. Landmark H&S conviction of CEO
- 4. MFM – Safety Alert Driving needs your full attention
- 5. FISC Forestry Data Review
- 6. Aztec Safety Alert Lifting Chains
- 7. Safety Alert – Ring feeder release system

Action Register:

- **Action 1:** WorkSafe to show their dashboard reports at the next meeting
- **Action 2:** WorkSafe update on ACOP progress
- **Action 3:** Christine to send draft for comment
- **Action 4:** Vaughn to present on contractors' security, vehicle camera and automated vehicle recognition system.

END